Prospects of Wheat Crop

2664. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether shortage of fertilizers and delay in supply thereof, particularly that of DPA and seeds to farmers following the unseasonal rains in Haryana. Punjab, UP and Bihar, have hit the prospects of good wheat crops this year; and

(b) if so, the likely shortfall in yield this year as compared to that in the preceding two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There has been, by and large, sufficient availability of fertilizers and seeds during 1998-99 which, interalia, contributed to an all-time record production of wheat in the country. However, pockets of shortages of DAP had been reported from the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh mainly due to bunching of imports during the months of October-November, 1998 and increase in demand as a result of increase in area under cultivation.

The production and productivity of wheat in Bihar, Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh during 1998-99 as compared to the preceding two years are given in the statement below.

Statement

Production and Yield of Wheat in selected States during 1996-97 to 1998-99

Production—Million Tonnes
Yield—Kg./hectares.

States	Production			Yield			% change in Yield during 1998-99 over	
	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bihar	46.61	41.59	46.00	2183	1999	2284	4.6	14.3
Haryana	78.26	75.54	79.23	3880	3660	3696	—4.7	1.0
Punjab	136.72	127.19	136.63	4234	3853	4101	—3.01	6.4
Uttar Pradesh	240.50	230.37	247.00	2668	2498	2676	0.3	7.1
All India	699.50	659.07	706.33	2679	2470	2628	—1.9	6.4

Public Investment in Agricultural Sectors

2665. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural production has declined during Eighth Plan due to lack of public investment in agricultural sectors;

(b) if so, the details of amount invested and agricultural production; year-wise during Eighth plan period; and

(c) measures suggested by the Government to increase in public investment during Ninth Five Year Plan;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The output of agriculture sector during the Eighth Plan recorded an average annual growth of 4.0 percent. The public sector investment in agriculture also showed an increasing trend except for 1995-96 and 1996-97.